

some brown on back, nape, and cheeks. Heads appeared rather a dirty dull grey in all three individuals.

'Call, only when disturbed, a soft "pt, pt" or "ti-ti-ti-ti".'

On April 19 we again visited the spot at about the same time of the day. We found at least five of the birds present but this time they seemed more wild and after a few minutes observation they flew off in a party and were not seen again. At about 25 yards range the following notes were added.

'Head dull-grey, sullied with brown on mantle, but not olive at all. Seemed grey-brown in some lights. Throat pale cream with slight yellowish tinge on moustachial streaks.'

Breast appears in retrospect to have been rather pale rust colour compared to *Ortolan* but shape, habits and general coloration were strongly reminiscent of that species. The time of year, however, suggests that the birds should have been in full plumage. The birds that AJ had seen in Turkey in similar plumage were probably already worn, possibly moulting, as the month was July.

Call might be diagnostic (?).

PJ, examined skins of both species from the BNHS. The bill of *E. hortulana* is distinctly thicker at the base and shorter than that of *E. buchanani*, and these features he had noted on the observed birds.

The SYNOPSIS records *E. hortulana* as taken twice in Gilgit and once in Kashmir on Spring migration, and the observation at Mehrauli appears to be the first record on the plains of the sub-continent.

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March 22, 1972.

A. J. GASTON

11. THE CRESTED BUNTING, *MELOPHUS LATHAMI* (GRAY) IN BHAVNAGAR (SAURASHTRA), GUJARAT

There are not many records of this bird in Saurashtra. I first saw a hen Crested Bunting in the Gir Forest before I wrote my book on the Birds of Saurashtra and subsequently I have seen solitary

birds there from time to time.¹ On 13 April, 1972, I saw a hen Crested Bunting in the early morning in my 'Forest-cum-Wildlife Research enclosure. It was solitary but near a group of Greynecked Buntings (*Emberiza buchanani* Blyth), and it seemed that it had been caught up with this small group. The birds were coming to water; after drinking, they disappeared. This is the first record of this species in Bhavnagar.

DIL BAHAR,

BHAVNAGAR-2,

April 14, 1972.

R. S. DHARMAKUMARSINHJI

12. FIRST RECORD WITH NOTES ON THE TUCKTOO *GEKKO GEKKO* (LINNAEUS) FROM THE ASSAM REGION

The last lap of an investigation of the reported occurrence of the Golden Langur in Garo Hills took us on 10th April to the Darugiri Reserve Forest where we camped at the Forest Bungalow. At 6 p.m. a startlingly loud noise from one of the rooms sent us scuttling inside where we discovered a very large spotted lizard hiding in a crevice between the large wooden pillar and the wall, about 12 ft from the floor. Light from our petromax did not seem to scare it visibly; it pressed its body more close to the pillar. The call was again repeated which when syllabised would sound like 'To-khoe', repeated 5 or 6 times. The exertion involved in calling must have been considerable; each time the body lurched forward and the head was raised and lowered. The call gradually decreased in loudness ending in a deep drawn-out guttural. Similar calls were heard from the adjoining forest at intervals. In a bid to make it emerge we removed the petromax and left the lizard in darkness. At 8 p.m. it was seen sitting over the wall of the room but on being disturbed it retreated into the hide-out. The movements were not too agile and much less faster than those of the House Gekko. It took us one hour to capture it alive.

The specimen was identified as *Gekko gekko* (Linnaeus), variously known in literature as Touktai, Tokay, Tucktoo and Taukte lizard. It was a large male. According to Mertens (1960) only males of this

¹ See Shiyraj Kumar JBNHS 52 : 598—Eds.